

State University of New York College at Buffalo - Buffalo State College  
**Digital Commons at Buffalo State**

---

Buffalo Kwanzaa Committee Papers

Organizations and Individual Collections

---

1995

## Educational Material; Children; Various; 1995-1980

Buffalo Kwanzaa Committee

Follow this and additional works at: [http://digitalcommons.buffalostate.edu/buff\\_kwanzaa\\_cmte](http://digitalcommons.buffalostate.edu/buff_kwanzaa_cmte)

---

### Recommended Citation

"Educational Material; Children; Various; 1995-1980." Buffalo Kwanzaa Committee Papers. Digital Collections. Monroe Fordham Regional History Center, Archives & Special Collections Department, E. H. Butler Library, SUNY Buffalo State.  
[http://digitalcommons.buffalostate.edu/buff\\_kwanzaa\\_cmte/18](http://digitalcommons.buffalostate.edu/buff_kwanzaa_cmte/18)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Organizations and Individual Collections at Digital Commons at Buffalo State. It has been accepted for inclusion in Buffalo Kwanzaa Committee Papers by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons at Buffalo State. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@buffalostate.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@buffalostate.edu).



---

# KWANZAA

## An Afro-American Celebration

---

For many Black American children, the last week in December is a very special time. Starting on December 26, the children and their families celebrate *Kwanzaa*, a seven-day festival that originated in the United States in the 1960s.

*Kwanzaa* means "first" in Swahili. The festival's customs and symbols come from African harvest celebrations of the first fruits of the year. It is a time for children and adults to commemorate their African heritage and to celebrate the values of family and community life.

Getting ready for Kwanzaa is part of the fun. In each home the children help make decorations of red, green and black (the colors of Kwanzaa) to hang on walls or an evergreen "Kwanzaa bush." A ceremonial table is set with a straw mat, a candle holder for seven Kwanzaa colored candles, a unity cup and a bowl of fruits and vegetables. Every child in the family then places an ear of corn on the table.

On each night of Kwanzaa, the children gather with their parents to light one of the candles and to talk about one of the seven values of Black American family life: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith. Afterward, everyone drinks from the unity cup.

Throughout Kwanzaa the children often receive presents. In keeping with the spirit of the holiday, the presents usually include something homemade, a book and a heritage item such as African doll or art object. When the celebration ends on January 1, the children get together with their families and friends for joyous feasts that include African foods, music, dancing and singing.



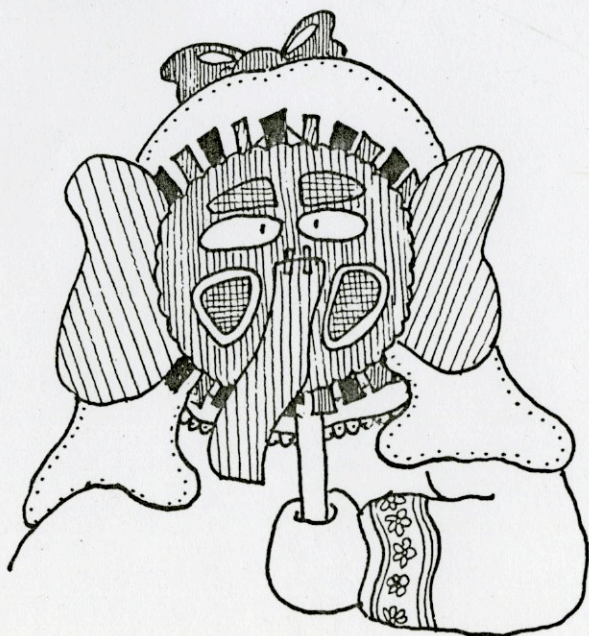
## KWANZAA DECORATIONS

Use a small Christmas tree to make a "Kwanzaa bush" for your celebration. Let the children decorate the bush with chains made from strips of red, green and black construction paper. Or cut geometric shapes out of black construction paper and let the children glue on small pieces of red and green giftwrap to make ornaments for hanging. If desired, let them sprinkle glitter on their ornaments while the glue is still wet.

**Variation:** Instead of using a real tree, cut a large Christmas tree shape out of green construction paper and mount it on a wall or a bulletin board. Then attach the children's decorations with tape or glue.

## AFRICAN MASKS

Show pictures of African masks from library art books. Then let the children use paper plates to create African animal masks. Cut eye holes in the plates and cut nose and ear shapes out of construction paper (black for the zebra and leopard masks; gray for the elephant trunks and ears). Then let the children choose to make one or more of the following masks.



**Zebra Masks** — Paint the back sides of paper plates with vertical black stripes. When the paint has dried, glue on nose and ear shapes. Then glue short strips of tissue paper or crepe paper around the edges of the plates. (To keep the paint from smearing, glue ears and tissue paper strips to the unpainted sides of the masks.)

**Leopard Masks** — Paint the back sides of paper plates yellow. When the paint has dried, use black felt-tip markers or black paint to make spots. Glue on nose and ear shapes and add tissue paper strips.

**Elephant Masks** — Paint the back sides of paper plates gray. Glue on trunks, ears and tissue paper strips.

When the children have finished, display their masks on a wall or a bulletin board. Or attach tongue depressors for handles and let the children use them for dramatic play.



## STORYTIME FUN

Read or tell the African folktale "How Spider Got Thin Middle" on p. 147. Then show pictures of spiders so that the children can see how spiders are made up of two parts. Explain that one way to distinguish spiders from insects is to look at their body parts: spiders have two parts, insects have three.

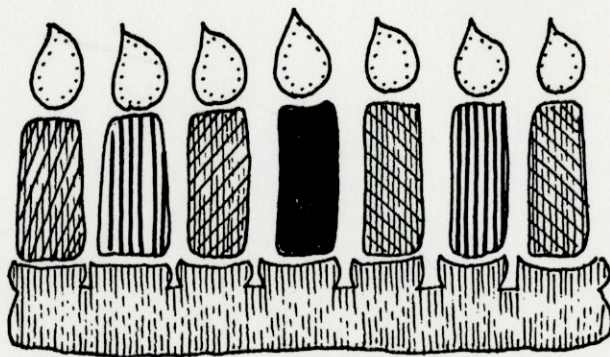
**Extension:** Talk with the children about harvest festivals and feasts. Draw a large rectangular mat shape on a piece of butcher paper. Then let the children tear pictures of foods out of magazines and seed catalogs and glue them on the mat to make a harvest feast mural.

## KWANZAA CANDLES

For this flannelboard game cut a seven-holed candleholder out of brown felt. Cut out seven felt flame shapes, one black and three each of red and green. Then cut seven candle flame shapes of yellow felt. Place the candleholder and candles on the flannelboard with the red and green candles alternating and the black candle in

the middle. Then let the children take turns placing the flame shapes on the candles as you read the poem below.

**Variation:** If desired, leave the candleholder on the flannelboard throughout Kwanzaa and let the children "light" one of the candles each day.



Seven little candles all in a line,  
Waiting to be lit at Kwanzaa time.

Who will light the black one?  
(Child's name) will light the black one.

Who will light a red one?  
(Child's name) will light a red one.

Who will light a green one?  
(Child's name) will light a green one.  
(Continue until all candles are lit.)

Seven little candles all in a line,  
Burning so bright at Kwanzaa time.

Now let's count them — one, two, three,  
Four, five, six, seven candles to see!

Elizabeth McKinnon



---

## SCIENCE

---

### HOW PEANUTS GROW

Set out unshelled peanuts for the children to crack open, examine and taste. Explain that peanuts are grown in many parts of Africa where they are called "groundnuts." Although we think of peanuts as nuts, they really belong to the same family as peas and beans. They grow underground on long shoots that the flowers on the peanut plants send down into the soil. Discuss

how peanut shells contain from one to three nuts and how each nut is covered with a brown skin and divided into two parts. (When a raw peanut is planted, the sprout grows between the two halves.) If desired, let the children sample raw peanuts (available at health food stores) and compare the taste with that of roasted peanuts.

---

## MOVEMENT

---

### FUN WITH DRUMS

Set out a variety of objects for the children to use as drums. Oatmeal boxes and coffee cans with plastic lids can serve as hand drums. For larger drums place objects such as wastebaskets, ice-cream buckets and cardboard cartons upside down on the floor. Let the children experiment with the drums and talk about the different sounds they make. Which ones are best for

making a sound like falling rain? Which ones are best for making the sound of elephants stomping? Tap out rhythms for the children to repeat. Then play library recordings of African music (or use Black American music) and let the children take turns accompanying the music with the drums while the others dance.

---

## MUSIC

---

### KWANZAA'S HERE

**Sung to:** "Three Blind Mice"

Red, green, black,  
Red, green, black.

Kwanzaa's (*kwahn-zahs*) here,  
Kwanzaa's here.

The decorations are quite a sight,  
We light a candle every night,  
The holiday is filled with light.  
Kwanzaa's here.



Jean Warren



---

## SNACKS

---

### SWEET POTATO PIE

Let the children help make sweet potato pie for your Kwanzaa celebration. (Sweet potatoes are often used in African cooking.) To make the pie crust, mix together 1 cup white flour and  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon salt. Cut in  $\frac{1}{3}$  cup shortening and add 3 tablespoons cold water. Knead and add a little more water, if necessary, until the dough can be formed into a ball. Roll out the dough on a floured piece of waxed paper. Then turn the paper upside down and ease the dough into a 9-inch pie pan. To make the pie filling, place the following ingredients into a blender container:

2 cups cooked sweet potatoes, 1 sliced banana,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup unsweetened frozen apple juice concentrate,  $\frac{1}{3}$  cup orange juice, 2 eggs and 1 teaspoon cinnamon. Blend well, then pour into the pie shell and bake at 400 degrees for 40 minutes. Makes 12 small servings.

**Variation:** Make sweet potato pudding by using just the pie filling ingredients above. Pour the blended mixture into a greased baking dish and bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes. Serve warm or cold. Makes 8 to 10 small servings.

---

### NUTTY BANANAS

Let the children enjoy this fun snack, which combines two favorite African foods — bananas and peanuts (groundnuts). Make a mixture of finely chopped or grated peanuts, wheat germ and cinnamon. Place small amounts of the mix-

ture on paper plates and give each child one half of an unpeeled banana. To eat, have the children gradually peel their bananas and dip them into the nut mixture before taking each bite.

---

### TASTY KWANZAA GIFTS

Giving homemade presents rather than store-bought ones is emphasized at Kwanzaa time. Let the children help make banana bread or any other kind of quick bread from a favorite recipe. Bake the bread in small metal juice cans to make individual loaves. Then let the children wrap the loaves and take them home as gifts.

Karen Seehusen  
Ft. Dodge, IA









---

# HOW SPIDER GOT HIS THIN MIDDLE

An African Folktale Adapted by Gayle Bittinger

---

Once upon a time Spider was big and fat and round. He was also very greedy. He lived in a forest near two villages. He liked living there because he was always sure of getting plenty of food to eat. If one village wasn't having a feast, the other village was.

But today was especially happy for spider. Both villages were having feasts. And Spider was so greedy that he planned to go to both of them.

"I don't want to miss anything good to eat," said Spider. "But how will I know which feast begins serving food first?"

Spider thought and thought until he came up with a plan. He got a long piece of rope and tied the middle of it around his fat body. Then he went and stood in the forest halfway between the two villages.

Soon a friend who was going to the feast at one village walked by. "Take this end of my rope and pull on it when the feast begins," Spider said.

Another friend came by on his way to the feast at the other village. "Take this other end of my rope and pull on it when the feast begins," said Spider.

Spider was very proud of himself for thinking of such a clever plan. Now all he had to do was wait for one of his friends to pull on the rope. Then he would know which feast was beginning first.

Spider thought about all the good food he would soon be eating. He thought about the

yams and peppers. He thought about the meat cooking over the hot coals. Spider was getting very hungry.

Suddenly he felt a tug pulling him toward one village. Then he felt a tug pulling him toward the other village. The feasts had started at exactly the same time at both places. Both of Spider's friends were pulling on the ends of the rope. And the rope was getting tighter and tighter around his middle.

"Help!" shouted Spider. But no one heard him.

At the two villages the feasts went on for a long time. Spider's friends wondered why he did not come. They kept pulling and pulling on the ends of the rope while everyone was eating.

When the feasts were over, the friends went to find Spider. He was lying on the ground with the rope pulled tight around his middle. He looked very weak, and his middle looked very thin. His friends untied the rope. "Why didn't you come when the eating began?" they asked.

Spider was so weak he could barely whisper. "Because the two of you were pulling on the rope at the same time, and I couldn't move," he said. "The rope kept getting tighter and tighter. And now look at my middle. It's so thin."

Spider's middle never grew fat again. And to this day, if you look carefully, you can still see the thin middle that greedy Spider got on the day there were two feasts.





## Kwanzaa

---

# The Seven Days of Kwanzaa

---

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Kwanzaa is an African-American celebration that runs for seven days, from December 26 to January 1. The celebration began in 1986 as a way to incorporate the agricultural rites of Africa into the life of the African American. Each day celebrates a different principle, symbolized by the lighting of a candle. Also, an agricultural rite is celebrated, using a particular symbol assigned to that rite. This script is unlike others in the collection in that it is more of an educational tool than a simple celebration of a holiday; it provides the whole concept behind Kwanzaa. African terms are included in parentheses. The three children in the script are not named, which allows the teacher to assign the parts without regard to the sex of the child. You may want to alter the script so the names of the children reading the parts replace the prompts "1st Child," "2nd Child," "3rd Child." Kwanzaa "cuts through religious celebrations and across social and political perspective in an attempt to blend the African culture with the Afro-American life-style," according to James C. Anyike. Anyike's *Afro-American Holidays* provides information on Kwanzaa and other celebrations.

### **STAGING**

Because there is little need for movement in this script, the Narrator and readers can all be seated stage center on stools or chairs. The Narrator should sit off to one side. The Children and Mother should face each other in a semicircle, as if they are sitting around a kitchen table.

### **CHARACTERS**

Narrator, Mother, 1st Child, 2nd Child, and 3rd Child.



## **The Seven Days of Kwanzaa**

**Narrator:**

Kwanzaa is an African-American celebration that takes place for seven days after Christmas. It begins on December 26th and ends on January 1st. Many African Americans are still learning about this celebration, as is the family in our script today. The children have just come home from school and are having a snack as they talk with their mother about their day at school.

**Mother:**

How was your day at school? Anything new or exciting happen?

**1st Child:**

No. It was boring as always.

**2nd Child:**

My day wasn't boring.

**Mother:**

Oh, really! What was your day like?

**2nd Child:**

We learned about Kwanzaa today.

**3rd Child:**

What is Kwanzaa?

**2nd Child:**

It is an African-American celebration.

**Mother:**

Kwanzaa. I don't believe I've heard of it. What is it?

**2nd Child:**

It is a celebration of Africa, our ancestors, and us.

**1st Child:**

When is it?

**2nd Child:**

It begins on December 26th and ends on January 1st.



**1st Child:**

That's a long celebration!

**Mother:**

I hope you don't think you'll get presents every day of Kwanzaa.

**2nd Child:**

Oh, no, Mother. It isn't about getting presents. It is about ideas and principles.

**3rd Child:**

What is a principle?

**Mother:**

It is a law or idea that everyone agrees to and uses to make life better.

**1st Child:**

Can we celebrate Kwanzaa this year?

**Mother:**

Well, if I know what to do and what the principles are, I guess we can. Tell me what I need to know and what we need to get to celebrate Kwanzaa.

**2nd Child:**

Oh, that's easy. I have all that information on my worksheet from school. I'll go get it out of my bookbag.

**Mother:**

While you are doing that, why don't you two get some paper and pencils so we can make lists and plans to celebrate Kwanzaa.

**Narrator:**

The children hurry to get the necessary materials. Upon returning to the kitchen table, they make a list of all of the items Mother will need to buy for the celebration and to learn about the seven principles.

**2nd Child:**

We will need seven candles. One is black, three are red, and three are green. Then we need a candle holder for the seven candles, a straw mat, a single candle holder, fruits, vegetables, an ear of corn, a unity cup, and small wrapped gifts.

**3rd Child:**

Why do we need all of those things?



**2nd Child:**

The candles stand for the seven principles, and each item stands for a special agricultural rite.

**1st Child:**

I thought you said there were no presents.

**2nd Child:**

There aren't.

**1st Child:**

You said we needed wrapped gifts.

**2nd Child:**

Well, yes, but those represent gifts, they're not actually gifts.

**1st Child:**

I'm confused. First you say no presents, now you say wrapped presents. And what is an agricultural rite?

**Mother:**

*(Speaking to the 1st Child)* I am sure you are confused because this is new to all of us.  
*(Speaking to the 2nd Child)* Why don't you explain each day to us just as we would celebrate it.

**2nd Child:**

That's easy. On the first day we light the black candle in the center of the big candle holder. On one side of it are the three green candles, and on the other are the three red candles. The black candle stands for unity (*Umoja*). With the lighting of the black candle, we also put down the straw mat. The mat represents our African and American traditions and history.

**3rd Child:**

I don't know what you mean by traditions.

**Mother:**

Traditions are ways of doing things that people pass down from generation to generation. They help us remember the past. Most holidays we celebrate are full of traditions. They were begun many years ago and we just keep practicing them year after year. In this celebration we will learn about some of the traditions from our ancestors long ago in Africa.

**3rd Child:**

Do you know any?



**Mother:**

Yes, I know of a few things. I guess I'll have to talk to Grandma about them, too. That way I won't forget the most important ones in our family. What do we do on the second day?

**2nd Child:**

We relight the black candle and one of the colored candles. Then we add an empty single candle holder (which is called *Kinara*). This stands for the continent of Africa and our ancestors. On the third day, we will relight the two candles and one of the remaining color so that we have three candles lit, one of each color. Then we will add the fruits and vegetables, which stand for the rewards of our collective labor.

**1st Child:**

Won't they spoil?

**Mother:**

I guess real ones might. Perhaps we can buy some plastic ones and then save them for next year. What are the two principles that we light the candles for on the second and third day?

**2nd Child:**

On the second day it is self-determination (*Kujichagulia*), and on the fourth day it is our collective work and responsibility (*Ujima*).

**3rd Child:**

What do you mean by collective?

**Mother:**

That which we do together as a family or a group of people, like sharing the chores or helping others. No one can get along without help from others. What is the fourth day about?

**2nd Child:**

On the fourth day we relight the candles and light one more colored one to represent cooperative economics (*Ujamaa*), and we add the ear of corn to represent the offspring of our people.

**1st Child:**

Offspring? There sure are a lot of new words I don't know. This is beginning to sound like school.



**Mother:**

I guess it does. But I think you will understand all of this better after we celebrate each of these days. We will discuss each of these ideas as we light the candles each day. So, go ahead and tell us about the other days.

**2nd Child:**

On the fifth day we light five candles, and the fifth candle stands for purpose (*Nia*). We also add the communal unity cup.

**3rd Child:**

What is a unity cup?

**2nd Child:**

It is a single cup that everyone drinks out of rather than each person having his or her own. People use it to show they all agree on something. On the sixth day, after we relight the five candles, we light a sixth candle, which stands for creativity (*Kuumba*), and we will add the wrapped gifts.

**1st Child:**

What will be in the boxes?

**2nd Child:**

I told you before, they aren't gifts for us; they represent gifts. They remind us that we must work hard to deserve rewards or to achieve something. Kwanzaa isn't like Christmas, when you get presents. These gifts are supposed to make you think about your year. They make you appreciate all of the rewards you have already gotten and consider how well you have done during the year. The last day, all seven candles are lit (this is known as *Ngugo Saba*), and we consider the last principle, faith (*Imani*). That is how the seven days of Kwanzaa are celebrated.

**Mother:**

It sounds wonderful. I'll get everything we need between now and then so we can celebrate every day. In fact, why don't we ask your grandmother to come for each celebration so she can help us learn about our past?

**3rd Child:**

Can we invite friends, too?

**Mother:**

I guess so. That would be a good way to learn about our past and ourselves. That's a good idea. Right now, however, I need the three of you to clear off the table and go do your homework while I fix dinner.



**1st Child:**

Do we have to? I still don't understand about offspring.

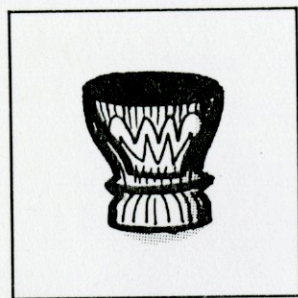
**Mother:**

Well, you go do your homework and let me fix dinner. Then while we eat, we will discuss the things you don't understand, okay?

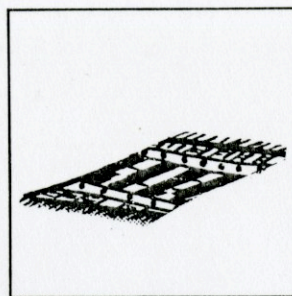
**Narrator:**

Reluctantly, the children do as they are told. And later that evening they will discuss Kwanzaa and make more plans as they talk about who they are going to invite to the celebration. We can all learn a great deal from Kwanzaa, as it centers on making each of us a better person, rather than on receiving gifts. Even if you do not celebrate Kwanzaa, it is something you can think about after Christmas is over. Planning how to be a better person is always a good way to begin a new year.

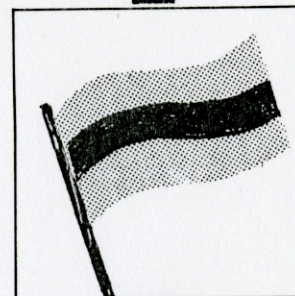




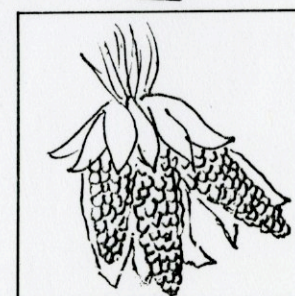
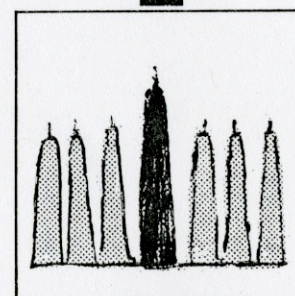
**Kuumba**



**Ujamma**



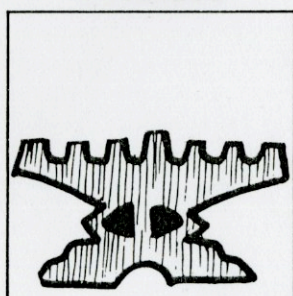
**Umoja**



**Nia**



**Imani**



**FINISH**

**START**

## DO YOU KNOW KWANZAA?

### *Instructions*

Number of players: 2 to 6.

An independent person will be score keeper. Coins or buttons can be used as markers. One dice is used in this game. Players will roll the dice to decide who will move first. The players will move along the board according to the number rolled on the dice. When a player lands on a symbol or principle, the player must give their name and explanation. If an incorrect answer is given, the player loses their turn. When the correct answer is given, the player has another roll of the dice and receives a point to be recorded by the score keeper. The player with the most points after the entire board is covered is the winner.



# SYMBOLS OF KWANZAA

Here are the seven basic symbols and two optional symbols of Kwanzaa.

1. **Kinara**  
(Ki-nara)  
Candleholder



The symbol of our ancestors.

2. **Mkeka**  
(M-Ke-Ka)  
Mat



The Mkeka represents our foundation.

3. **KiKombe Cha Umoja**  
(Ki-Kom-be Cha U-mo-ja)  
Unity cup



A symbol of unity used by everyone taking part in the Kwanzaa celebration.

4. **Mishumma Saba**  
(Mi-shum-ma Sa-ba)  
The seven candles



The candles represent the Nguzo Saba (the seven principles of Kwanzaa). One candle is lit each day of the celebration.

5. **Mazao**  
(Ma-zao)

Fruits and vegetables



The mazao is a symbol of how we work together.

6. **Vibunzi**  
(Vi-bun-zi)  
Ears of corn



The Vibunzi represents children.

7. **Zawadi**  
(Za-wa-di)  
Gifts



Gifts are given as a reward for work well done.

8. **Nguzo Saba**  
(N-gu-zo Sa-ba)  
The seven principles

UMOJA  
KUJICHAGULIA  
UJIMA  
UJAMMA  
NIA  
KUUMBA  
IMANI

A set of beliefs which Kwanzaa is based on.

9. **Bendera ya Taifa**  
(Ben-dera ya Ta-ifa)  
The red, black and green flag.

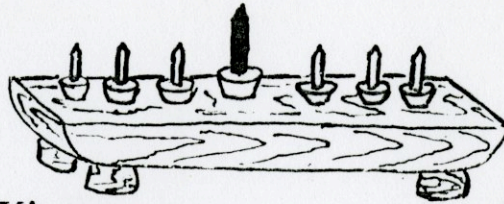


The flag was used by a great Black leader, Marcus Garvey. Red is for the blood of African people, Black is for the face of African people. Green is for hope and Africa.



## HOW TO MAKE A KWANZAA CELEBRATION SET

The Kwanzaa Celebration set consists of a kinara, seven candles 3 green, 1 black, 3 red (Mishumaa Saba), a mat (Mkeka), and a communal cup (Kikombe Cha Umoja). In the spirit of Kuumba BE CREATIVE. Design your own set. Below you will find suggested instructions for making a kinara and mat.

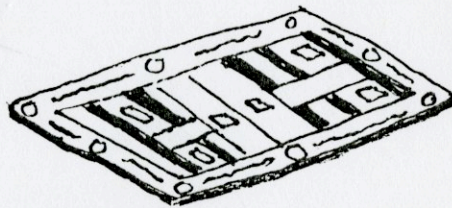


### **Kinara**

#### *Materials*

Approximately 14" long x 3" wide strips of wood  
Elmers glue  
1" paint brush  
2" paint brush  
shellac  
sand paper - coarse and fine  
small wood craft pieces

Be careful to inspect strip of wood for splinters that might get into childrens fingers. Allow children to sand strip of wood, taking turns. First use coarse sand paper, then fine. After the strip has been sanded smooth, select pieces to serve as holders for candles, and any other pieces to decorate the base of the Kinara. Using the glue, secure candle holders to the base of the kinara. Glue on any other decorations. Allow to dry at least 12 hours. When completely dry, shellac, using even strokes. Allow to dry overnight. Apply a second coat of shellac, allow to dry. Place candles in position left to right, green, black and red (Mishumaa Saba).



### **Mkeka (Mat)**

#### *Materials (suggested)*

felt, burlap or straw pieces approximately 14" x 11"  
Elmers glue  
fabric scraps, yarn, glitter, small beads  
blunt ended large holed plastic needles  
tempera paint

Allow children to choose which fabric they wish for the base of their mat. They then can decide how they want to design their mat, using the materials provided. Where many children are involved, you may want to stitch all the mats together at the edges to make one large mat (Umoja)

### **The Communal Cup (Kikombe Cha Umoja) and Candles**

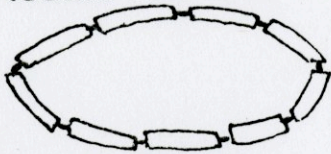
The cup, preferably one that is made of wood and candles can be purchased from a local store.



# ZAWADI(Gifts)

Here are some simple gifts that can be made at home or in school, to exchange during the Kwanzaa holidays.

## Noodle Necklace



### Materials

1-2 Boxes large Ziti noodles  
Tempera paint-variety of colors (definitely include red, green, yellow and black)  
Various size shoe laces in an array of colors  
½" brushes for painting  
roll of wax paper

Distribute noodles to children. Put the paint in bowls in the middle of the table. The children will paint their noodles different colors and lay them on the wax paper to dry, about 1 hour. After noodles have dried, string them onto a shoe lace. Tie a knot at the ends of the shoe lace.

### Variations:

1. Sprinkle glitter on painted noodles while they are still wet.
2. Create a new design by adding beads to the noodles.
3. Take small chips of wood, drill a hole through them, paint them, shellac them. Let them dry and string them on shoe laces. (For ages 8-11 under the supervision of an adult).
4. The same ideas can be used to make bracelet and necklace sets.

## "Light of the World Candles"



### Materials

3-6 boxes of salt  
variety of colored sidewalk chalk  
6 oz. plastic clear tumblers (one for each child)  
quick drying Plaster of Paris  
small votive candles – black, red, green and yellow  
small plastic disposable 8 oz. bowls (one for each child)  
plastic spoons

Place salt in plastic bowls. Encourage children to make circles in the bowl of salt. As they circle the chalk the salt will begin to change color. Make a variety of colors of salt. The children will spoon the salt into the plastic cups, layering the different colors. Leave ap-

proximately 1½ inches of space from the top of the cup. Using a toothpick, show the children how they can create valleys and mountains by sticking the toothpick along the inside surface of the glass. Allow the children to create their own designs. Prepare the plaster by simply adding water until a smooth consistency is obtained (work quickly because the plaster dries quickly). Pour plaster almost to the top of the cup. Place the candle in the center of the cup. Allow the plaster to continue to dry, about 10 minutes. A 7 candle kinara can be made for the Kwanzaa celebration.

## Sekere (shake-a-ray)



### Materials

large round balloon  
tempera paint  
old newspaper  
masking tape

### Papier-Mache Pulp

6 tbsp. flour or  
6 tbsp. dry laundry starch or  
1 cup liquid starch  
knead until heavy dough consistency  
3-6 hours drying period

Blow up balloon and knot at end. Tear newspaper into 1" x 6" strips. Saturate strips in pulp mixture. Completely cover the balloon with the strips. Apply at least 3 layers of strips. Allow to dry overnight. Roll newspaper piece approximately 3½" long x 3" wide. Tape all the way around from top to bottom. Cover with saturated strips and attach to the base of the balloon by overlapping at the base of the balloon. Allow to dry at least 6 hours. Children will string beads onto ten strands of heavy cord knotted together at one end. Once beads are strung, knot the cords at each end. Drape the beaded cord over the top of the sekere. Use a straight pin to secure the knot at the top of the sekere. Tie the loosed cords together around the base of the sekere, attaching them to another piece of cord tied together to form a circle at the base.



# KWANZAA

FILL IN THE BLANK WITH THE CORRECT ANSWER FROM THE WORD LIST BELOW:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is an African American celebration.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ founded Kwanzaa in 1966.
3. Kwanzaa is observed from \_\_\_\_\_ to January 1.
4. Kwanzaa is based on \_\_\_\_\_ principles.
5. The seven principles are \_\_\_\_\_ (unity), Kujichagulia (self-determination), Ujima (collective work responsibility), Ujamaa (cooperative economics), Nia (purpose), Kuumba (creativity) and Imani (faith).
6. Each day of Kwanzaa a candle is lit beginning with the \_\_\_\_\_ candle which is placed in the center of the candle holder.
7. Three \_\_\_\_\_ candles are placed on the left and three green candles are placed on the right of the candle holder (kinara).
8. Kwanzaa means "the \_\_\_\_\_ fruits of the harvest" in the East African language of Kiswahili.
9. When \_\_\_\_\_ are given, it is suggested that they be creative e.g. handmade or functional like a book.

## WORD LIST

AFRICAN AMERICAN  
CHRISTMAS  
DECEMBER 1  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
GIFTS  
RED  
SEVEN  
UMOJA

BLACK  
DECEMBER 26  
DR. MAULANA KARENGA  
FIRST  
SECOND  
THREE  
WHITE  
KWANZAA

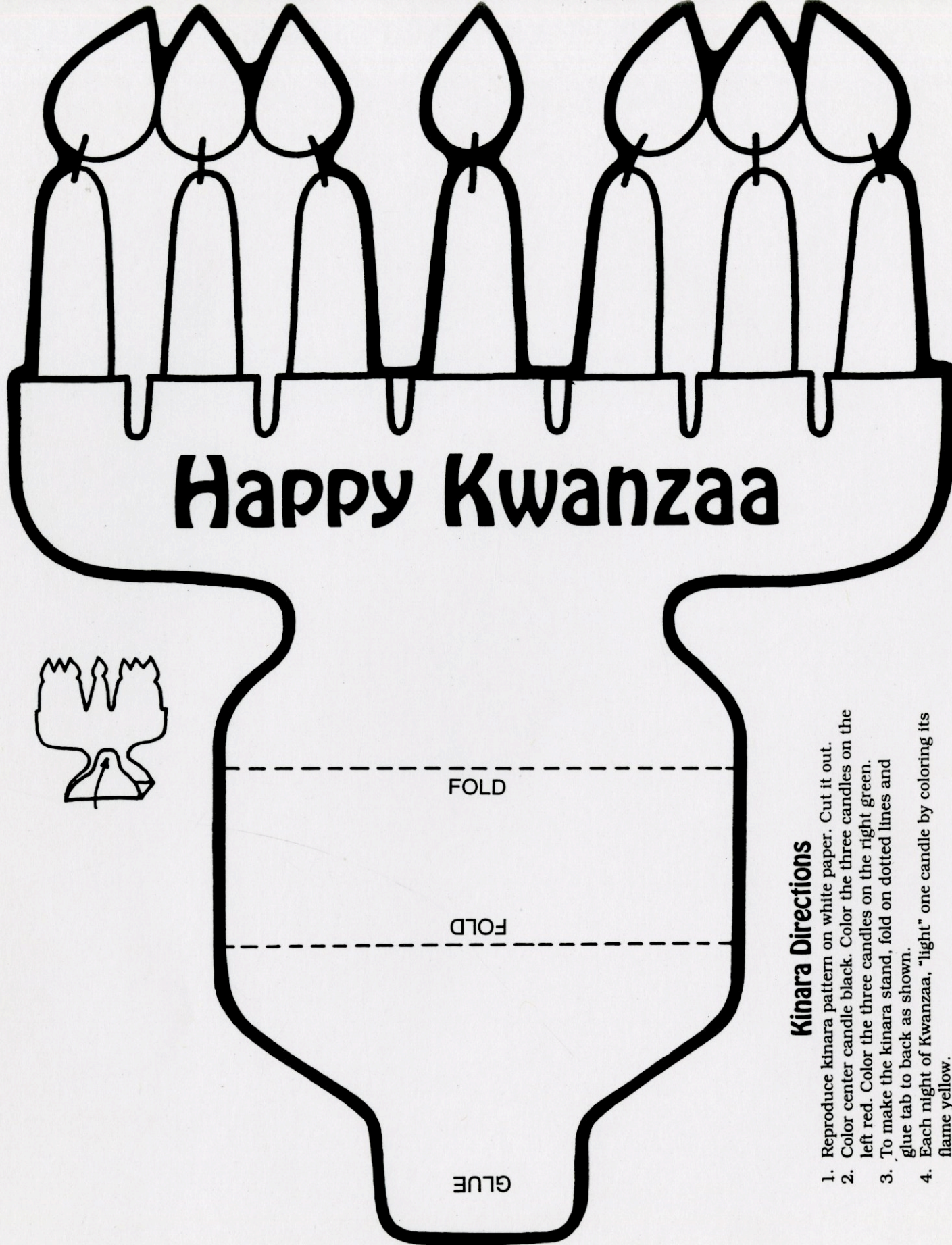
COMPLIMENTS OF THE RAM DAN  
BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
DECEMBER 1995



## ANSWERS

- |    |                     |    |       |
|----|---------------------|----|-------|
| 1. | KWANZAA             | 6. | BLACK |
| 2. | DR. MAULANA KARENGA | 7. | RED   |
| 3. | DECEMBER 26         | 8. | FIRST |
| 4. | SEVEN               | 9. | GIFTS |
| 5. | UMOJA               |    |       |





### Kinara Directions

1. Reproduce kinara pattern on white paper. Cut it out.
2. Color center candle black. Color the three candles on the left red. Color the three candles on the right green.
3. To make the kinara stand, fold on dotted lines and glue tab to back as shown.
4. Each night of Kwanzaa, "light" one candle by coloring its flame yellow.





# MY KUUMBA BOOK



Today is December 26, the first day of Kwanzaa.  
Draw a picture of yourself and show how happy  
you are.



The first, third, and fourth principles are UMOJA, UJIMA, and UJAMAA. They teach us to come together, work together, and share. Draw a picture of yourself, with friends or relatives, practicing one of these principles.



The second and fifth principles, KUTICHAGULIA (self-determination) and NIA (purpose), teach us to show at all times that we are proud, Afrikan people. Draw a picture of yourself, visiting or living in Afrika.



KUUMBA is the sixth principle. It means creativity.  
Create a beautiful design on this page, using our  
special colors : red, black, and green.



IMANI (faith), the seventh principle, teaches us to believe in our parents, teachers, and leaders. It is important to believe in yourself too. Draw a picture of what you believe you can be or do "to create a new and better world."



# NGUZO SABA~

## SEVEN PRINCIPLES

**UMOJA** — UNITY

**KUJICHAGULIA** — SELF-DETERMINATION

**UJIMA** — COLLECTIVE WORK & RESPONSIBILITY

**UJAMAA** — COOPERATIVE ECONOMICS

**NIA** — PURPOSE

**KUUMBA** — CREATIVITY

**IMANI** — FAITH







Especially

for



kids



and their



families



# The Mini Page®

© 1990 by Universal Press Syndicate

Sunday, December 23, 1990

By BETTY DEBNAM

Page E-7

## An African-American Celebration



Kwanzaa (Quanza) is a holiday celebrated by many black Americans. It is held Dec. 26 through Jan. 1.

The seven-day celebration encourages people to think about their African roots as well as their life in present-day America.

Kwanzaa is based on African festivals. The word means "the first fruits."



Smithsonian Institution, Anacostia Museum, Harold Dorwin, photographer

A Kwanzaa table showing the mat, candle holder, ears of corn, fruit, bread, gift and cup. As a part of the celebration, a different candle is lighted each night.

Kwanzaa is not a religious celebration like Christmas and Hanukkah.

Many black families celebrate Christmas and Kwanzaa.

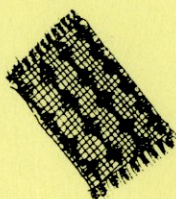
Kwanzaa is a new celebration. It was started in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Ron Karenga.

He was a professor, writer and leader in the black struggle.

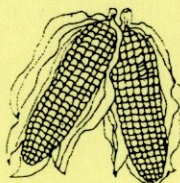


from The Mini Page by Betty Debnam  
© 1990 Universal Press Syndicate

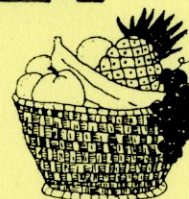
## The Kwanzaa symbols



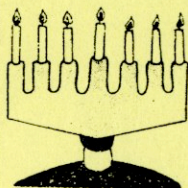
The mkeka (m-KAY-kah) is a straw mat standing for the foundation on which all else rests.



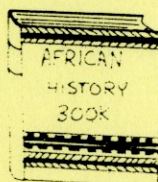
The muhindi (muh-HIN-dee) are ears of corn. They stand for the children of the family.



The matunda (ma-TOON-dah) is the fruit. It is placed in a basket on the table to represent the harvest. Bread may also be included.



The kinara (kee-NAR-ah) is a candle holder of seven candles, standing for the family background from which all African-Americans come.



The zawadi (za-wah-DEE) are gifts for the children awarded for hard work. Books or homemade gifts are encouraged.



The kikombe cha umoja (KI-kohm-bay cha oo-MO-jah) is a cup. It stands for unity.

The Mini Page thanks Joanna Banks of the Anacostia Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., for help with this story.



# More about Kwanzaa customs



photo by Harold Darwin

## The feast

On Dec. 31 there is a joyful celebration of food, dance and music. The feast is called "Karamu" (kar-RAH-mu). The children receive their gifts. They also tell how they will improve their lives using the seven principles in the coming year.

A group of children learn how to celebrate Kwanzaa at the Anacostia Museum, Smithsonian Institution, in Washington, D.C.



from The Mini Page by Bern Liberman © 1990 Universal Press Syndicate

## The unity cup



**HARAMBEE!** The oldest person in the family pours fruit juice or wine into the unity cup. While pouring, he or she talks about an ancestor and the good qualities he or she represented. The elder then takes a drink and passes it around for all to share. Everyone repeats the word "Harambee" (ha-RAHM-bee), which means "pull together."

## The greeting



During Kwanzaa, friends and family greet each other by saying "Harbari gani" (har-BAR-ree GAH-nee), which means, "What's happening?" They answer with the special principle of the day.

## The fasting

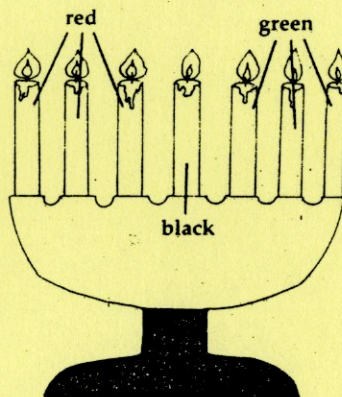
During Kwanzaa, adults fast, or don't eat from sunup to sundown. This cleanses their minds, bodies and spirits.

## The colors

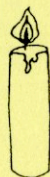
The colors of Kwanzaa are:

- black for the people.
- red for the blood of the people.
- green for the land of Africa.

## The candles



On each night of Kwanzaa, families hold ceremonies and light the candle for the day. A new candle, or mushamma (mu-shah-MAH), is lighted each night of Kwanzaa. The first one lighted is the black one in the middle.



The seven candles stand for the seven principles of Kwanzaa. These principles serve as a guide for daily living.

## Seven principles

The seven principles, or main ideas, are called **Nguzo Saba** (n-GOO-zoo SAH-bah):

1. **Umoja** (oo-MO-jah): unity for family, community and country.
2. **Kujichagulia** (koo-gee-cha-goo-LEE-ah): self-determination to speak for ourselves.
3. **Ujima** (oo-jee-mah): working together to solve problems.
4. **Ujamaa** (oo-ja-ma): building our stores, shops and businesses.
5. **Nia** (NEE-ah): purpose to build and develop our community.
6. **Kuumba** (koo-UM-bah): creativity or making the world around us clean and beautiful.
7. **Imani** (ee-MAH-nee): faith.



dashiki  
(da-SHEE-kee)  
shirt

People often dress in African-style clothes during Kwanzaa.



buba  
(BOO-ba)  
dress



from The Mini Page by Betty Debnam © 1990 Universal Press Syndicate

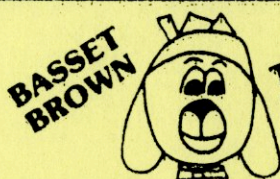
# Mini Spy . . .



Casey and his little sister are celebrating Kwanzaa.  
See if you can find:



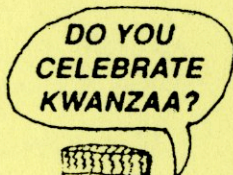
- word MINI
- letter C
- comb
- letter H
- ice-cream cone
- exclamation mark
- frog
- letter E
- letter Y
- nail file
- letter A
- question mark
- ruler



THE NEWS HOUND'S

## KWANZAA TRY 'N FIND

Words about Kwanzaa are hidden in the block below. See if you can find: AFRICA, BLACK, CANDLE, CELEBRATION, CORN, CREATIVITY, DAYS, FAITH, FOOD, GIFT, GREEN, MAT, PURPOSE, SEVEN, UNITY, FAMILY, FRUIT, RED, VEGETABLES.



A D A I C R E A T I V I T Y S  
F A U N I T Y B L A C K B J Z  
R Y G C K P U R P O S E C U A  
I S R M D L V F O O D R A F S  
C E E A G I F T N W C E N A E  
A Q E T P X F R U I T D D I V  
G N N X A Y F A M I L Y L T E  
H V E G E T A B L E S R E H N  
C E L E B R A T I O N C O R N



## CELEBRATING KWANZAA



Children's Department  
Buffalo & Erie County Public Library  
1997



## CELEBRATING KWANZAA

Kwanzaa is an African-American holiday that is celebrated from December 26th through January 1st. It was created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga.

Each day of Kwanzaa represents the Nguzo Saba (The Seven Principles).

December 26	Umoja	(Unity)
December 27	Kujichagulia	(Self-Determination)
December 28	Ujima	(Collective Work and Responsibility)
December 29	Ujamaa	(Cooperative Economics)
December 30	Nia	(Purpose)
December 31	Kuumba	(Creativity)
January 1	Imani	(Faith)

Anderson, David A. Sankofa. Kwanzaa: An Everyday Resource and Instructional Guide. 1993. Oversize GT 4403 .A5 1992. A guide to celebrating Kwanzaa in the classroom. Includes activities and lesson plans.

Brady, April A. Kwanzaa Karamu: Cooking and Crafts for a Kwanzaa Feast. 1995. j TX 715 .B823 1995. Includes recipes for Breads, soups, vegetables, main dishes and desserts and a few related Kwanzaa crafts.

Chocolate, Deborah M. Newton. Kwanzaa. 1990. j paperback/and j GT 4403 .C46 1990. A discussion of the African-American holiday of Kwanzaa.

Chocolate, Deborah M. Newton. My First Kwanzaa Book. 1992. j GT 4403 .C464 1992. An easy introduction to the holiday of Kwanzaa.

Chocolate, Debbi. A Very Special Kwanzaa. 1996. j paperback. Charlies' school is holding a Kwanzaa Festival and he wants no part of it.

Corwin, Judith Hoffman. Kwanzaa Crafts: A Holiday Craft Book. 1995. j TT 900 .K92 C67 1995. Craft projects to make the seven Kwanzaa symbols, decorations, gifts, games and food treats.

Ford, Juwanda G. K is for Kwanzaa: a Kwanzaa Alphabet Book. 1997. j picture book. Symbols of Kwanzaa and African heritage from A-Z.

Freeman, Dorothy Rhodes and Dianne M. MacMillan. Kwanzaa. 1992. j GT 4403 .F74 1992. An introduction to the holiday of Kwanzaa and its ceremony.



- Goss, Linda and Clay. It's Kwanzaa Time! 1995. j GT 4403 .G67 1995.  
Stories, recipes and activities introduce the holiday of Kwanzaa.
- Hintz, Martin and Kate. Kwanzaa: Why We Celebrate It the Way We Do. 1996.  
j GT 4403 .H55 1996. Discusses the origin and symbols of Kwanzaa and offers suggestions for ways to celebrate this holiday.
- Hoyt-Goldsmith, Diane. Celebrating Kwanzaa. 1993. j GT 4403 .H69 1993.  
Text and photographs depict how a Chicago family celebrates Kwanzaa.
- Johnson, Dolores. The Children's Book of Kwanzaa: A Guide to Celebrating the Holiday. 1996. j GT 4403 .J64 1996. Background on the Kwanzaa holiday with a wide variety of recipes, crafts and gift ideas. Also includes a list of where to purchase supplies.
- Kroll, Virginia. Wood-Hoopie Willie. 1992. j picture book.  
Willie drums for the Kwanzaa celebration.
- McClester, Cedric. Kwanzaa: Everything You Always Wanted to Know But Didn't Know Where to Ask. Revised edition, 1994. j E 185.86 .M25 1994.  
Contains celebration ideas, food recipes, Afrocentric hairstyles, fashion and home decorating suggestions, gift ideas and more.
- Medearis, Angela Shelf. The Seven Days of Kwanzaa. 1994. j GT 4402 .M33 1994.  
In addition to information about the holiday, crafts and recipes, there are seven celebration stories of famous African-American men or women that represent a principle from the Seven Principles.
- Moore, Miriam and Penny Taylor. The Kwanzaa Contest. 1996. j Fiction.  
Ron, the third grader demonstrates his talents as he wins the Kwanzaa contest.
- Pinkney, Andrea Davis. Seven Candles for Kwanzaa. 1993.  
j Oversize GT 4403 .P56 1993. A description of the origins and practices of Kwanzaa.
- Porter, A.P. Kwanzaa. 1991. j GT 4403 .A2 P67 1991.  
Describes the origins and practices of Kwanzaa with background on African-American history.
- Riehecky, Janet. Kwanzaa. 1993. j GT 4403 .R54 1993.  
An introduction to the holiday with several activities.
- Robertson, Linda and Julia Pearson. Kwanzaa Fun: Great Things to Make and Do. 1996. j GT 4403 .R63 1996. Activities and crafts that celebrate the seven principles of Kwanzaa.
- Ross, Kathy. Crafts for Kwanzaa. 1994. j TT 900 .K92 R67 1994.  
Twenty craft projects from games and jewelry to gift wraps.



Saint James, Cynthia. The Gifts of Kwanzaa. 1994. j GT 4403. S25 1994.

Explains the symbols and principles of Kwanzaa.

Walter, Mildred Pitts. Have a Happy... 1989. j Fiction.

Eleven-year old Chris's family observes the holiday of Kwanzaa and makes special presents for the celebration.

Walter, Mildred Pitts. Kwanzaa: A Family Affair. 1995. j GT 4403 .N31 1995.

A comprehensive explanation of Kwanzaa symbols and ceremonies with suggestions for activities and crafts.

Washington, Donna L. The Story of Kwanzaa. 1996. j GT 4403 .W37 1996.

Description of the history, traditions and customs of Kwanzaa and includes activities.

Williams, Julie. Celebrating Kwanzaa. 1996. j GT 4403 .W55 1996.

The customs and rituals of Kwanzaa are explained in rhyming text.

Winchester, Faith. African-American Holidays. 1996. j GT 4803 .A2 W55 1996.

Includes one page on Kwanzaa.

#### KWANZAA WEB SITES

. Kwanzaa Information Center

<http://www.melanet.com/kwanzaa/>

. Earthlink Kwanzaa Site

<http://www.earthlink.net/holidays/kwanzaa/>

. Kwanzaa: The African American Celebration

<http://www.globalindex.com/kwanzaa/welcome.htm>

. CNN Kwanzaa Page

<http://www.cnn.com/EVENTS/1996/kwanzaa/>

. Celebrating Kwanzaa

<http://www.netnoir.com/spotlight/Kwanzaa/index.html>

#### SEARCH ALSO

[www.yahoo.com/](http://www.yahoo.com/) search Kwanzaa

[www.yaholigans.com/](http://www.yaholigans.com/) search Kwanzaa



Here are some things we can do at home:

- Talk/read/sing to your babies in the womb throughout the day.
- Talk/read/sing (at eye level) to your children from birth to adulthood throughout the day.
- Provide many occasions for your children to see you reading and writing. Share your books and writings with your children at appropriate ages.
- Listen and discuss audiobooks (all age levels)
- Provide many opportunities for your children to see you solving problems. Share with your children when and why you had to change your mind/actions about something.
- Ask your children questions about things that matter to them. Ask about their interests, friends, choice of music, clothing, etc.
- Find information about African/African-American culture and teach/share with the members of your family
- Do/evaluate Kwanzaa and Maat in your life daily
- Pray with your children and discuss a relationship with the creator

Here are some things we can do in our religious institutions:

- Start a church-family book club where adults and children share books and their personal writings.
- Start an after-school or Saturday Literacy Club that would help support adult/children in the church who are struggling with reading and writing.
- Lift up and share African/African-American culture; examine religious text from our cultural perspective
- Call on God and the ancestors to show us how to transform ourselves and then our children

Here are some things we can do in our communities:

- Support our cultural institutions in the city of Buffalo (Langston Hughes Institute Ujimaa, African Cultural Center)
- Support/Read our Black-owned/operated newspapers in the city of Buffalo
- Attend book sharing/talks in the community; bring your children to the talks
- Share/teach/study the adinkra symbols and African proverbs to build character
- Reiterate the standards of excellence in the 7 principles of Kwanzaa and Maat in all we do and all the time
- Encourage business ownership



7

## Hey Black Child

Hey Black child  
Do you know who you are  
Who you really are

Do you know you can be  
What you want to be  
If you try to be  
What you can be

Hey Black child  
Do you know where you're going  
Where you're really going

Do you know you can learn  
What you want to learn  
If you try to learn  
What you can learn

Hey Black child  
Do you know you are strong  
I mean really strong

Do you know you can be  
What you want to be  
If you try to be  
What you can be

(back)



Hey Black Child  
Be what you can be  
Learn what you must learn  
Do what you can do

And tomorrow your nation  
will be what you want it to

### I am the Black Child

I am the Black Child  
All the world waits my coming  
All the earth watches with interest,  
to see what I shall become.  
For what I am, the world of  
tomorrow will be

I am the Black child  
you have brought me into this world  
about which I know nothing. you  
hold in your hand my destiny  
you determine whether I shall  
succeed or fail. Give me I beg you  
a world where I can walk tall  
and proud, teach me as is your  
duty unto me, to love myself,  
my people and to build and  
maintain a great nation

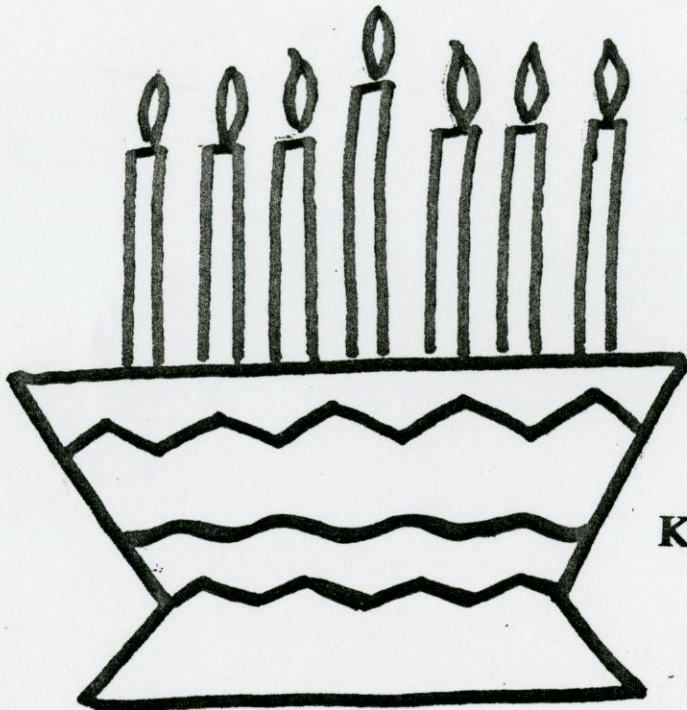


# CELEBRATE KWANZAA!

MKEKA

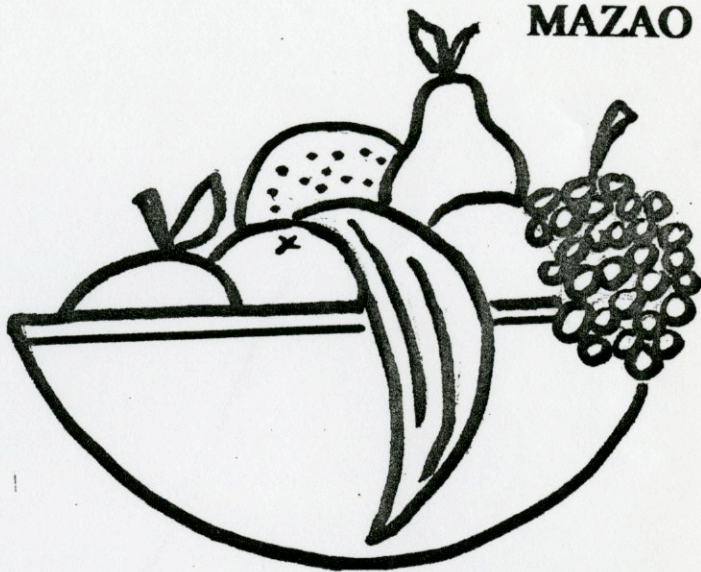


VIBUNZI



MSHUMAA  
SABA

KINARA

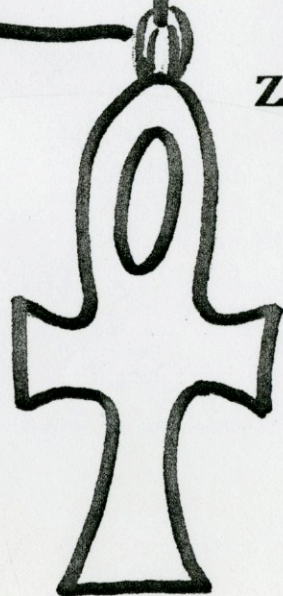


MAZAO

KIKOMBE CHA  
UMOJA



ZAWADI

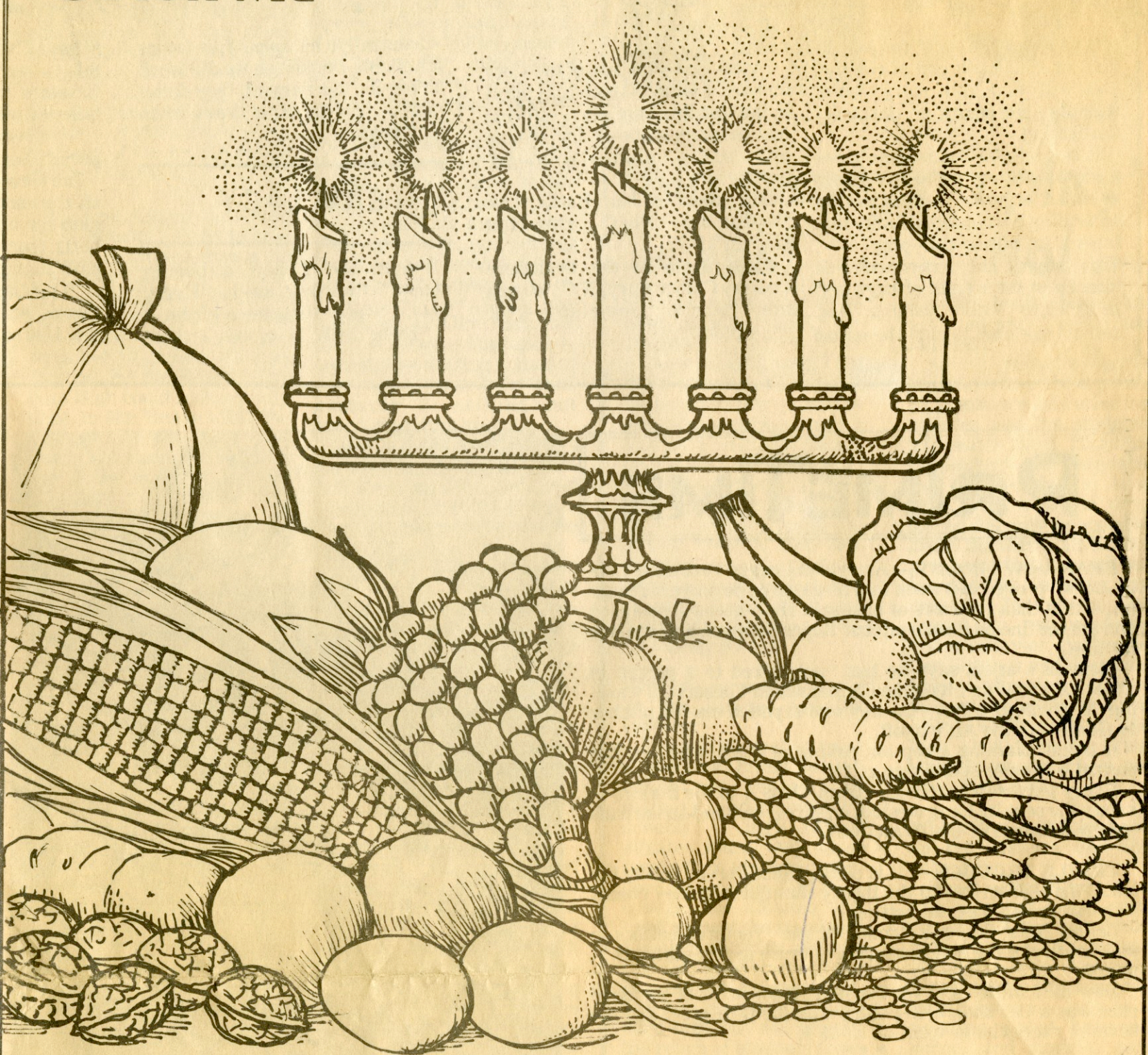


BENDERA YA  
TAIFA





# Color Me





# Celebrate KWANZAA



## The Nguzo Saba

Listed below are the Seven Principles of Kwanzaa, which may serve as guides for daily living.

### 1. Umoja (Unity)

To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.

### 2. Kujichagulia (Self-determination)

To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves instead of being defined, named, created for and spoken for by others.

### 3. Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility)

To build and maintain our community together and make our sister's and brother's problems our problems and to solve them together.

### 4. Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics)

To build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to profit from them together.

### 5. Nia (Purpose)

To make our collective vocation the building and developing our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.

### 6. Kuumba (Creativity)

To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.

### 7. Imani (Faith)

To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

Kwanzaa is celebrated from December 26th to January 1st of each year.